

## **New Linden Hill Road Working Group**

### **Minutes**

**Monday, August 19, 2002, 9 a.m.**

**Skyline United Methodist Church**

#### **ATTENDEES:**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Agency</u></b>
David Sokola	State Senator
Pam Maier	State Representative
Joe Miro	State Representative
Leslie Darden	Deacons Walk
Charlie Potts	Drummond Hill
John O'Brien	Drummond Ridge
Dorothy Schukraft	Skyline Drive
Bud Freel	DelDOT
Kelly Pitts	DelDOT
Chris Costello	DelDOT
Charlie Leary	DelDOT
Jim Satterfield	DelDOT
Dave Damiani	DelDOT

#### **Project Update:**

The anticipated completion is still scheduled the end of November. A-Del is lagging due to resources, but they are still working within their time frame. A traffic switch went into effect the week of August 12 moving traffic onto the newly constructed side of the road. Work continues on the north side of New Linden Hill Road. The timing of the light on Skyline Drive and New Linden Hill Road was adjusted on Monday, August 19. DelDOT's Traffic Section will continue to monitor the light within the next couple of weeks to minimize congestion in the area. Within the next two weeks the light at Upper Pike Creek Road will be installed. Also, within the next week or two, rubberizing operations will begin along with work on catch basins and guardrails.

The entrances to the shopping centers, Polly Drummond Shopping Center and the Shoppes of Linden Hill will be paved and reopened the week of August 19. However, DelDOT will need to temporarily close the entrance to the Pike Creek Shopping Center later on in the project to do curbing work.

#### **Questions and Discussion:**

- The question was asked whether area business owners have been informed about the project. Although they have been invited to attend the working group meetings and have not attended to date, they still receive a copy of the minutes. In addition, we will prepare flyers to let them know when we will be performing work that will affect access to the shopping centers involved.
- It was noted that there is a problem at the Skyline Drive/New Linden Hill Road intersection in turning movements, especially with school starting and the addition of school busses using the intersection. This issue was anticipated by the Department. The intersection is wide enough to accommodate DART busses, and should be able to accommodate school busses as well, although conditions may be tight. The problem is, that there isn't enough room to build a separate turning lane, and the Department has

done all it could to keep the intersection as wide as possible. DelDOT will continue looking into this problem and offer a solution by the end of next week.

- It was also noted that Delaware State Police had not been monitoring the area in quite some time. There are a number of reasons: DelDOT resources; DSP manpower, where State Troopers monitor construction sites on an overtime basis, and the number of Troopers is not available in their pool; DSP priorities, where monitoring a construction site may not fall as high on their list of priorities; however, DelDOT intends to have them come out again.
- Then, the question was asked whether flaggers could direct traffic through the intersection? Only police officers have the authority to direct traffic through active traffic lights.
- A suggestion was made to detour traffic around Papermill Road. Chris will work with DelDOT's Traffic Section to determine whether this option could work. It was noted however, that the reason detours have not been used to this point, is because the Department was careful not to contribute to additional traffic through the developments in the area.
- An inquiry was made about whether speed limit signs could be placed on top of the PCC barrier until the traffic is switched into the next phase. Posting warning signs may not meet crash test criteria in Delaware, but Chris will check with DelDOT's Traffic Section.
- The question was posed as to whether the intersection work at Skyline Rd./New Linden Hill Rd. could be advanced to minimize inconvenience at the intersection. Because the plans have already be set and agreed upon, the Department could not commit, however, the questions was definitely worth checking into.
- It was noted that WJBR included the project in their traffic report, but WILM doesn't. Both radio stations receive a traffic and construction report from DelDOT on a weekly basis. However, WJBR subscribes to a traffic reporting service that customizes their report to suit the needs of their listening audience. WILM, selects what they cover in house. The Public Relations Section will call WILM's news director, as well as step up sending news releases, specifically to them to ensure that the project gets more coverage.
- The group requested that DelDOT post signs or message boards to warn the public about congestion on New Linden Hill Road and offer alternative routes. Representative Miro suggested that a sign or message board be placed near MBNA's complex at Milford Crossroads. DelDOT will look into posting more information to help alleviate the traffic on New Linden Hill Road during construction.
- The question was asked about the life of the asphalt? The asphalt is expected to last 30 years, with maintenance, mild pavement resurfacing due 10 year cycles to preserve the asphalt. There will be 9" on asphalt on the road surface, and 2" hotmix over 4" of base covering the bike/pedestrian path, which won't be quite as thick.
- An inquiry was made into the status of the striping at Videre Drive. There are two issues at Videre, (1) the striping, which will be deciding on after the paving is completed, and (2) the modified entrance, which after the temporary striping is done, the Department will revisit this issue with the Working Group to settle on a preference.
- It was asked whether the islands were necessary at Skyline Dr./New Linden Hill Rd.? The islands serve two purposes, channelization of traffic and access for pedestrians. It helps channelize turning movements, as well as serve as a place for pedestrians to rest in case the light changes before they reach the other side of the road. Chris will check with the Department to determine whether replacing the island can be delayed so that the extra space could be used to accommodate right turns.

- A discussion followed about keeping additional traffic out of the area. DelDOT's Public Relations Section will work with the media and other resources to ask motorists to find alternate routes, and will also work with the Traffic Management Authority to help spread the word about the project, specifically to MBNA employees, a major contributor to the congestion problem.

### **Action items:**

- Chris will coordinate with Charlie to go door-to-door to inform business owners about work being performed at the entrances to the shopping centers prior to it happening.
- Chris will work with Traffic on the possibility of establishing a detour route.
- Chris will check with the Department to see whether the plans could be advanced to perform the work at the Skyline Dr/New Linden Hill Rd. intersection, to minimize disruptions to the traffic flow.
- Chris will work with the contractor and DelDOT Traffic to post the speed limit so that it can be easily seen by the traveling public.
- Kelly will work with WILM to include the project in their traffic reports.
- Bud will work with Traffic in getting message boards placed at MBNA and Limestone Road.
- Chris will check with the Department about delaying the installation of the traffic island at Skyline Dr/New Linden Hill Rd. to accommodate turns until later in the project.
- Kelly will work with the TMA in informing MBNA employees about the project, asking them to find alternate routes.
- Toward the end of the project, Chris will be contacting DelDOT's Traffic Section about the final configuration and striping at Videre Dr., where the original intent was to have a single lane of traffic for both through traffic and turning traffic.

### ***For questions or comments you may contact:***

Area Engineer: Chris Costello, 323-4460

Project Supervisor: Charlie Leary, 456-9926

Public Relations: Bud Freel, 577-5100

Public Relations: Kelly Pitts, 760-2080

***NEXT MEETING, Monday, September 16, 2002  
9 a.m. at Skyline United Methodist Church***